FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MAY 1983

Lebanon

Military, Security Situation — An Israeli helicopter was shot down by a SAM in the 'Ammiq area of the Al-Biqa' valley, according to Lebanese press reports cited by Beirut radio. The Lebanese National Resistance Front announced that its men downed the helicopter, killing all members of the crew, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. Monitored Israeli media have not reported any such incident.

Meanwhile, Druze and Christian militia released 104 kidnapped persons, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, Phalangist Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil ordered his men to release all detainees while Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt condemned the kidnapping of the Maronite bishop of Tyre by Druze socialists, according to Voice of Lebanon radio and Radio Monte Carlo. The bishop was subsequently released, Beirut radio noted.

Lebanese Contacts — Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met separately with presidential envoy Philip Habib and Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov, Beirut radio reported. Commenting on the meeting with Soldatov in remarks broadcast by the radio, Al-Wazzan said the Soviet Union has "something which it can offer" and can play an effective role in assisting Lebanon. Al-Wazzan denied he had asked the Soviet Union to press Syria to withdraw, asserting that Lebanese requests to Syria are made directly, "and we have made such an approach."

Israeli Position — Israel must neither fix a timetable for withdrawal nor say what it will do if the Syrians refuse to withdraw their forces, Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. A senior Israeli official confirmed that Israel is formulating plans for a change in its military deployment in Lebanon, according to the radio. The official also said Israel will "categorically" reject any U.S. move to link Syria's withdrawal with U.S.-sponsored talks on the Golan Heights.

Syrian Position, Contacts — Culture Minister Najah al-'Attar affirmed Syria's "irrevocable rejection" of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, adding that Syria will never change its position despite possible mediation by Arab and European countries, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a statement published by *Tishrin*. Syria will not withdraw its forces from Lebanon until after the cancellation of the agreement and the unconditional full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, the minister declared.

In another development Jerusalem radio cited the Arabic weekly *Al-Watan al-'Arabi's report that President Hafiz al-Asad* recently told PLO leaders Syria is convinced war will break out with Israel and expects to lose 20,000 men and suffer severe economic damage. Meanwhile, Al-Asad received the visiting Tunisian foreign minister, and Syrian envoys conveyed messages from Al-Asad to the leaders of Morocco, Mauritania, and the YAR, according to Damascus television, MAP, and Nouakchott and San'a' radios.

Egyptian Position — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali told the London daily *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat* that Syria and Lebanon should negotiate an arrangement for the withdrawal of Syrian forces under which Syria would obtain a security zone in Lebanon.

PLO

The five officers whom PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had placed under his "direct orders" issued a statement in Damascus rejecting these orders, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The dissidents announced they will remain in their positions in Al-Biqa' in order to put an end to the "deviation" within the Fatah leadership and step up armed struggle. The statement added that the officers will continue their "revolutionary movement" until their demands are met, including a call for the return to the battlefield of all exiled Palestinian forces, preparation of a military plan of action, an end to bribery and misuse of Fatah funds, and a call for an extraordinary Fatah congress to find solutions to all problems.

In another development QNA, citing "informed" Palestinian sources,reported that an agreement has been reached between the Fatah leadership and the military leaders to refer the issue of the recent rebellion attempt to the Fatah general congress scheduled to meet in Aden on 27 May. It has also been agreed to suspend a decision on transfering some of the dissident officers until after the congress, sources added.

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AFP: Qader Reported Injured After Quarrel With Deputy

BK241014 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP) — Afghan Defence Minister General Abdol Qader was wounded in his office last week during a violent quarrel with his deputy, General Khalilullah, according to Western diplomatic sources here today. General Qader was rushed to hospital on May 15, when the incident occurred.

According to one of several versions, General Khalilullah, a member of the minority Khalq faction in the ruling Afghan Communist Party, angered by the recent promotion of a number of officers belonging to the Parcham faction, beat the minister unconscious. He was said to be suffering from head wounds and broken ribs.

Another version said that General Qader was shot in the leg by his deputy, and another that General Khalilullah's bodyguard opened fire

Western diplomats believe that General qader, who is in his fifties, was not seriously hurt. One unconfirmed report said that he left hospital after three or four days there.

Western sources said that the attacker, General Khalilullah, was put under house arrest.

General Qader, a career Army officer who was made defence minister last year, played a pleading role in the April, 1978, communist coup d'etat. A member of the Khalq fraction, like most Army officers, he grew nearer to the rival Parcham faction after President Babrak Karmal came to power in December, 1979, when Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan.

Last month, the fifth anniversary of the "April Revolution", a dozen officers, the majority of them Pracham supporters, were promoted to the rank of general.

The Qader incident, according to observers, tended to confirm reports reaching here of continuing tension between the two Communist Party wings.

Last September 30, General Abdul Wodood, commander of the Afghan Army force in Kabul, and a leading member of the Khalq wing, was shot dead in his Defence Ministry officer after a qarrel with Parcham officers there.

Karachi on Fighting at Karabagh in A[illegible]il

BK201610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 83

[Text] The latest reports from Afghanistan say that the Afghan mujahidin crushed two attacks launched by Soviet-Karmal regime forces to recapture Karabagh near Kabul last month. The first attack was thwarted at (Napola) between (Kalghan) and Karabagh on 22 April when the Karmal forces had to flee after suffering heavy casualties. A few days later the second attack was also crushed and the mujahidin damaged several tanks in their sudden counterattack on Soviet-Karmal forces at (Baghe Arik Sorkh).

Another report says that a bus carrying Karmal soldiers was destroyed in a bomb explosion at the (?main) intersection of the Maiwand highway in Kabul. All of the Karmal soldiers were either killed or wounded in the incident.

Karachi Reports Clashes in Qandahar, Helmand

BK241138 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed in a clash with the Afghan mujahidin in (Zilaman) and (Kujari) villages of (Dand) subdivision in Qandahar Province on the 13th of this month. The clash occurred when the Soviet-Karmal forces were forcibly recruiting villagers for the army.

According to another report, the mujahidin attacked a Soviet-Karmal mobile squad in (Khalij) subdivision of Helmand Province. The Mujahidin claimed to have inflicted eight casualties.

Briefs

Envoy in Bulgaria — Sediq Rahpu, the DRA ambassador and representative extraordinary to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, recently presented his credentials to Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 May 83 LD]

2d Protest Lodged With PRC on Khunjerab Pass

BK240314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] India has lodged another protest with China against the opening of the Khunjerab Pass at the terminus of the Chinese-built Karakoram highway. The 4,620-meter-high pass was formally opened to traffic in August last. India protested against tne opening of the Khunjerab Pass to both China and Pakistan last year saying that the two countries had no right to enter into an agreement over an area under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

AFP: Pakistani Forces Said To Encroach on Jammu

BK231138 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] New Delhi, May 23 (AFP) — Opposition politician Atal Bihari Vajpayee charged today that Pakistan forces had "encroached" on three acres of land in Jammu bordering Pakistan, and warned of infiltration from across the border, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Mr. Vajpayee, head of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said that villagers from Chandachak in the Hiranagar area of Jammu and Kashmir state had informed the border security force and civil administration of the encroachment, but that the latter had done nothing to get the land returned, PTI said.

The BJP leader, now touring the state which is due to elect a new state assembly on June 5, said he would ask the federal government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to act against those responsible for not informing the government of the matter, it said. Mr. Vajpayee, speaking in Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir, said that Pakistan was "nibbling at our territory" while Mrs. Gandhi was declaring that her government was ready to defend the nation's border.

The BJP leader, a Foreign minister in the former Janata Party government 1977-79, also alleged that large-scale infiltration from Pakistan was taking place in the border district of Rajouri in Jammu region, PTI said. He said that during his election tour to canvass support for his party candidates, he had received reports in Rajouri of alarming infiltration from across the border.

He cited the population figures of the last (1981) census in support of this, PTI said. The population growth rate in Rajouri District was 37.47 per cent during 1971-81 as against 26.73 percent during the previous decade, and in Poonch District it was 30.27 per cent against 10.51 per cent during 1961-71 decade. He said these figures were disturbing the state authorities and asked the federal government to lose no time in taking effective steps to check the infiltration, PTI said.

Gandhi Addresses Meetings in Jammu, Kashmir

BK231056 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has said that the dangers of a third world war are looming large. Addressing public meetings at Hiranagar and several other places in Jammu and Kashmir today, she said India is trying for peace in the world. Economic tension is aggravating and poor countries are hard hit. Mrs Gandhi praised the Armed Forces for guarding country's borders with vigil. She accused the opposition on supporting every agitation without considering national interest.

Further Report

BK231619 Delhi Donestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 83

[Excerpts] Mrs Gandhi has again cautioned people against the forces of regionalism, communalism, and castism. Addressing a number of public meetings in the border districts of Jammu, Rajouri, and Punch in Jammu and Kashmir today, she said the center is making all efforts to solve the Punjab tangle.

Mrs Gandhi said that the center has given Jammu and Kashmir state grants liberally, but unfortunately they have not been put to productive use. She advised the [state] government to attend to the problem of people and not to create a state of confrontation.

Gandhi said India wants to live in peace with neighbors, but if a war is thrust upon the country, it would give a befitting reply, she added.

Gandhi Comments on Williamsburg Summit, Pakistan

BK240429 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that her appeal to world leaders for a summit meeting at the United Nations has evoked a lukewarm response. She said the response to her message to the participants of the coming Williamsburg summit of the leaders of the affluent countries has also not been encouraging.

In an interview to three Delhi-based Yugoslav journalists, she said India desires to have more cooperation rather than confrontation with its neighbors. She said President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan had agreed to have economic cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, Pakistan is rearming itself with more sophisticated weapons. Mrs Gandhi recalled that India however took the initiative for exchange of ambassadors as well as trade relations with Pakistan.

Abdullah Says Kashmir's Accession to India Final

BK231106 Delhi Deomestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the accession of the state to India is final and there can be no dispute about it. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar this morning, he said that we should bury this issue once and for all.

About the recent clahes during the election campaign, he said reports about these incidents are exaggerated and only 18 cases have been registered by the police. Two persons died and about

70 people injured in the clashes. About 50 persons have already been taken into custody. Dr Abdullah said that his government will ensure that all steps are taken for a free and fair poll in the state.

AFP: Grenade Lobbed at Ex-Officer's Home in Patiala

BK240641 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] New Delhi, May 24 (AFP) — A grenade was thrown at the residence of a retired Army colonel, Chanan Singh, in Patiala shattering the calm which had prevailed in the town since the Hindu-Sikh clashes of two weeks ago, it was reported today. PTI agency said the explosion late yesterday damaged doors and windows in the house but no one was injured. Colonel Singh was out at the time but his daughter was inside watching television.

One person was killed and several others were injured when Sikhs and Hindus clashed in the business district of Patiala when a shop-owner objected to the continuous blaring of loudspeakers in the area earlier this month. A curfew was clamped on the town for several days and troops and police patrolled the streets before peace was restored.

Meanwhile, the autonomy-seeking Sikh Akali Dal Party yesterday announced plans to stop rail traffic and paralyse government machinery on June 17 in the next stage of their action for increased autonomy, the *Indian Express* reported today. The programme, however, would be conducted "in a peaceful manner," the paper quoted Akali sources as saying.

At least 18 people were killed and several hundred others were injured when Akali extremists clashed with para-military forces during the Sikh's first "block the traffic" programme held in April 4.

PATRIOT Comments on U.S. Ambassador's Remarks

BK231718 Delhi Patriot in English 19 May 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Lame Defense"]

[Text] US ambassador Harry G Barnes could not obviously be expecting to be taken at his word when he denied the Prime Minister's charge that his country was working actively to prevent India from getting credits from world financial institutions. Mrs Gandhi made these observations in her letter to an American student. The memory of US opposition to India's request for a loan from the Asian Development Bank is too fresh in the people's minds to lend credibility to the Ambassador's refutation. The Reagan administration's attempt to block the International Monetary Fund's five billion SDR loan to this country last year does not also support the self-righteous statement made by Mr Barnes that the US Administration had never done anything to deserve this accusation.

As for his claim that the United States had always tried to strike a balance between old and new borrowers from the international financial institutions, the Finance Minister has already rebutted it at his press conference last week. As Mr Pranab Mukherjee pointed out, this high principle did not stop Washington from pressing the claim of a new borrower — China — to the resources of the International Development Association at the cost of India which has traditionally been the largest borrower from this soft-lending credit agency. The Reagan administration remembered this fact only when this country sought to exercise its legitimate right to seek a loan from the Asian Development Bank. Perhaps Mr Barnes believes in the dictum that a diplomat's job is to tell lies to cover up his government's indefensible and objectionable actions. But, unfortunately for Mr Barnes, in this case his position has become totally untenable. How can he deny this irrefutable evidence of Washington's double standard? The fact is that for the US the aid operations of the international financial institutions are designed to subserve the sole objective of furthering Washington's economic and foreign policy objectives. Since these objectives require the borrowing country to submit to US dictates, these operations have to be confined largely to countries willing to surrender their economic and political independence. India's refusal to compromise its freedom has obviously placed it out of this select circle of pliable favoured states.

Mrs Gandhi is not given to making such allegations lightly. That the Prime Minister found it necessary to express publicly her opinion regarding the US Administration's obstructionist pressure tactics underlines the disappointment of the Indian Government which had hoped for an improvement in Washington's attitude. Evidently, the hopes aroused during Mrs Gandhi's last visit to the US have been belied and the motions of friendship and cooperation made so far by various official American spokesmen have proved to be nothing more than exercises in hypocrisy. The current US pressure against flow oif financial resources to this country is a continuation of the negative American attitude towards India's developmental aspirations since independence. Instead of advancing lame excuses to camouflage the reality. Ambassador Barnes should advise his government that friendly relations with this country are possible only if the Reagan administration is willing to recognise that cooperation is not synonymous with subservience.

India: Elections Due in Assam for Rajya Sabha Seats

BK211637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] The president today issued a notification calling for biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha to fill two vacancies from Assam. The seats fell vacant last month because of the retirement of the sitting members. The last date for filing nominations is the 28th of this month.

President Zia Departs for Katmandu 24 May

BK240625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that his visit to Nepal will further strengthen and stabilize the friendly relations between the two countries. He said this while talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport this morning prior to his departure for Katmandu on a 4-day official visit to Nepal. The president emphasized that our efforts to develop friendship with Nepal are aimed at promoting peace and friendship among all countries of the region. These efforts are for our mutual benefits and are not directed against any other country. Both Pakistan and Nepal are members of the South Asian Regional Conference for Cooperation which also includes India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. Pakistan has made efforts to develop friendly relations with all countries of the region.

When asked about the nature of his talks with the Nepalese leaders, the president said that no agenda has been fixed for the talks. However, views will be exchanged on bilateral relations and international issues.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, chairman of the Advisory Council, federal ministers, councillors, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior civil and military officials saw the president off at the airport.

MUSLIM on Possible Agreement on Afghanistan

GF241154 Islamabad The Muslim in English 14 May 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Afghanistan: Light at End of Tunnel?"]

[Text] The announcement of Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's impending visit to Saudi Arabia and the capitals of the big five to discuss the Afghanistan question will come as a pleasant surprise to all those who are looking towards a speedy settlement of this issue. The announcement of the foreign minister's journey coincides with the publication of an interview by the United Nations special envoy Senor Diego Cordovez stating that "95 percent of the text of the draft comprehensive settlement was ready." Describing the recently-concluded second round of indirect talks at Geneva as "excellent", the U.N. envoy who serves as an intermediary between Islamabad and Kabul added that "there is a genuine desire to achieve a comprehensive settlement (and) the parties agree that a negotiated solution is the best way to solve the problem." A lot of other people will go along with this sensible approach to the problem, which has complicated the already complex regional situation, created immeasurable difficulties for Pakistan and opened up possibilities for external forces to attempt to exploit the situation to their advantage.

That the quiet diplomacy of the U.S. envoy seems to be paying dividends is evident from the diplomatic moves under way, particularly the foreign minister's proposed journey. In a move that will certainly mollify critics and sceptics alike of the Cordovez mission, the foreign minister's visit to capitals of those countries that count in this situation will enable Pakistan to carry them along in the quest for a solution. The fears, if any, of some that Pakistan may go for a "behind-the-scenes" deal with Kabul should now be allayed. Concurrently, a perceptible improvement is discernible in Pakistan-Soviet relations, especially in the field of trade and technical cooperation. This is both necessary and desirable since the Soviet Union is practically a neighbouring super-power which has not demonstrated a particular desire to harm Pakistani interests. Notwithstanding these factors, major road-blocks still remain on the road to a "historic compromise" on Afghanistan. The scepticism of some of Pakistan's friends regarding our active role vis-a-vis the Cordovez mission needs to be dispelled, indeed, replaced by a more positive attitude in providing succour to three million Afghan refugees and our inability to play the role of either a "front-line state" or "buffer zone" with reference to Afghanistan. As a strategically-placed medium power, we are in no position to be the "front-man" for American anti-Sovietism nor an instrument of the newly-revived cold war.

A lot depends on the Soviet Union in reaching a settlement on Afghanistan. It is only when its troops withdraw from Afghanistan and a more representative government takes over in Kabul that the voluntary repatriation of the refugees to their homes can be made possible. Additionally, as Senor Cordovez has hinted, draft settlement will be a worthless piece of paper until and unless other interested parties — USSR, USA & China — guarantee the agreement. While these difficulties remain and hopefully will be surmounted during the future course of protracted talks at Geneva, the important thing — and this is real good news — is that Pakistan's policy-makers are on the right track with the right approach to resolve the Afghanistan question.

Foreign Minister Visits Saudi Arabia

For Riyadh SPA and radio accounts of the 21 May visit to Saudi Arabia of Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 24 May Middle East and Africa *Daily Report*.

'Surprise' Expressed Over Reported Gandhi Remarks

BK231558 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Diplomatic observers in Islamabad have expressed surprise at Mrs Gandhi's alleged statement which she made while addressing an election meeting in occupied Jammu Nad Kashmir. She said Pakistan might start a war with India. The observers said Pakistan has repeatedly asserted that it desires to live in peace with India and other neighboring countries and wants to settle disputes through peaceful means. The Government of India has still not responded to Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact. The alleged statement of the Indian prime minister is regrettable, especially at a time when the India-Pakistan joint ministerial commission is to hold its first meeting in Islamabad next week. As an atmosphere of good-will is essential for the convening of the meeting, the baseless accusations against Pakistan are not good, the observers added.

NDP Supports Democratic Agitation Movement

GF231247 Dubayy Khaleej Times in English 23 May 83 p 5

[By correspondent]

[Excerpt] Islamabad — The Central Executive Committee of the National Democratic Party [NDP] on Saturday endorsed the Movement for Restoration of Democracy's [MRD] decision to launch a movement for democratic revival on August 14, and resolved that it would be in the forefront of the agitation.

In various resolutions passed in its two-day meeting in Peshawar and released by Party Secretary-General Ghulam Ahmed Bilore, the NDP expressed concern over what it described as largescale distribution of arms and money by a political party (alluding to Jama'at-i-Islami), received from "foreign sources" to stir trouble, which might lead to bloodshed. It urged the government to take serious notice of the situation.

Another resolution took exception to the reported decision of the government to ban the recruitment of women in banks, PIA,and foreign service, and called the step as retrogressive calculated to deny the women their legitimate rights.

Briefs

Oil, Gas Prospects — A preliminary study carried out in Baluchistan notes a number of positive indications about the potential of oil and gas in the Makran Region. The prospects in the coastal and offshore areas are said to be more than those in central Makran. Radio Pakistan's representative said the rock study of 10 centers in the Makran Region has been done and indicates that various topographic levels show signs of good prospects of oil and gas generation. It is expected that the optimum depth of generation of oil and gas in the area will be from 3,000-5,500 meters. The study was carried out by the Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan in collaboration with the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 May 83 BK]

NEPAL

Protesters Demand Thapa's Resignation

BK220857 Hong Kong AFP in English 0132 GMT 22 May 83

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, May 22 (AFP) — A large disgruntled group of national government employees and current national legislators braved heavy rains to stage a protest rally here yesterday demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa.

None of the expected violence occurred.

Protesters carrying placards calling for the resignation of this kingdom's top political leader as well as for such measures as "bring down the price of foodgrains and fertilizers," marched along a route prescribed by the government and were preceded and followed by riot police carrying fire arms, helmets and bamboo shields.

At the end of the march, the crowd gathered at the open air theatre for a public rally.

Prominent among the speakers were former Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista, former Chairman of the National Panchayat (unicameral legislature) Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and former Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha, who organized the march, and Pashu Pati Rana, a strong critic of the prime minister in the National Panchavat.

Each speaker levelled charges against the prime minister for his alleged failure to control administrative corruption and improve the national economy, and for hikes in the prices of electricity and other essential gods and services.

Mr. Shrestha said the government had increased foodgrain prices at a time when peasant farmers' stocks were empty.

He also said that raising the prices of electricty to pay off a World Bank debt and hiking fertilizer charges to check the smuggling of that product into the Indian market were absurd and illogical.

Mr. Thapa had acted "irresponsibly" against the interest of the people, he said.

Mr. Rana criticised Mr. Thapa's attempts to discourage the Nepalese from exercising their democratic rights guaranteed by the country's third constitutional amendment.

The protestors said that the government had cut off the potential strength of the march by banning trucks and buses from other areas of Nepal from entering Katmandu valley.

The protest was the third and last in a series intended to pressure Prime Minister Thapa to step down from the government, political observers here said.

Prince, Foreign Minister To Visit Saudi Arabia

BK221530 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 22 May 83

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah will pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 29 May to 2 June at the friendly invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in Katmandu today that his royal highness will be accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Water Resources Padma Bahadur Khatri. Other members of the entourage will be officials from the royal palace and his majesty's Government of Nepal, the ministry said.

SRI LANKA

Parliament To Meet 25 May on State of Emergency

BK201123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 83

[Text] Parliament will meet at 1500 on Wednesday to enable the house to be informed of the declaration of the state of emergency effective from 1700 on the 18th. The 18 new parliamentarians elected in the by-elections will also take their oath on this day.

At the by-elections, the ruling United National Party [UNP] won in 14 constituencies, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] in 3, and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna 1.

At the local government elections, the UNP won 9 municipal councils and 25 urban councils. The Tamil United Liberation Front won two municipal councils and five urban councils and the SLFP one municipal council. The rest of the urban council elections were won by independent groups.

Meanwhile, elections to the urban councils of Kalutara, Ambalangoda, Tangalla, and Hambantota are being held today.

Opposition Parties Charge Illegal Election Tactics

BK201155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 20 May 83

[Text] Colombo, May 20 (AFP) — Opposition parties today accused the government of abuse of state machinery and thuggery during Wednesday's by-elections that saw the government make sweeping wins.

"It was a civil war and not an election," Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) deputy leader, Tikiri Banda Ilangaratne, was quoted as saying.

The SLFP won three of the 14 parliamentary seats it contested and was the government's main challenger in the polls.

The ruling United National Party (UNP) took 13 of the 17 by-elections called after President Junius Jayewardene

demanded the resignation of UNP legislators in areas where less than half the voters backed his government.

A state of emergency was announced after voting to prevent electoral violence. Polling was marred by violence in northern Jaffna District where Tamils are seeking autonomy.

Mr Ilangaratne reportedly told the *Island* newspaper that the police were rendered helpless by "the pressure of powerful ministers when thuggery had been used before their eyes."

He charged that when SLFP polling agents were taken in for police questioning on false complaints by government support ers,"mass impersonations had taken place."

The leader of the Peoples United Front (MEP), Dinesh Gunerardene, the only winner from a Marxist oriented party, also charged the government with use of undemocratic methods, the *Island* reported.

Mr Gunerardene said public opinion "was not allowed to be freely manifested because the UNP continued to adopt anti-democratic tactics and used the entire state machinery against the entire opposition, particularly the progressive and patriotic forces."

The *Sun* newspaper reported that 191 incidents of polls violence had been reported to the police in the 24 hours since early Wednesday morning. Two people died in the violence, the paper said, but there were no other cases of serious injury.

Meanwhile former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike's film star son-in-law Vijaya Kumaranatunge who lost the Mahara seat by 45 votes to the government is reportedly going to challenge the result in court. Mr Kumarantunge, who has become a controversial figure in the SLFP with his radical views and clashes with brother-in-law Anura Bandaranaike, has said he would cite allegations of purposeful detention of his polling agents by the authorities.

He told the *Island* newspaper that his election agent had not signed the relevant papers accepting defeat because of an alleged discrepancy in the total number of votes found in a ballot box at one polling booth.

AFP Updates Local Elections Statistics

BK210952 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] Colombo, May 21 (AFP) — The ruling United National Party (UNP) has won three of the four remaining local authority elections held two days after general polls, bringing its total wins to 37 out of 50.

The local elections were held yesterday because they clashed with parliamentary by-elections in the same areas on Wednesday. The fourth election seat was won by an independent group.

On Wednesday, UNP won 14 of the 18 parliamentary by-elections and 34 of the 46 local councils contested. The main opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), was completely routed in the local elections, winning only one area.

Meanwhile, a suspect has been detained in connection with a shooting incident on Wednesday in which one man died. Two other deaths were reported in election-related violence.

Former Prime Minister Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's son-in-law Vijaya Kumaranatunge, who narrowly lost the by-election in Mahara, north of Colombo, told police that a government supporter shot at him and killed a bystander.

In the north, where one soldier was gunned down and three others wounded by Tamil militants on Wednesday, the situation is returning to normal, reports said today.

Following the shooting incident, about 30 to 40 shops and homes were torched. Reports today said they have now reopened. The Army, called in to maintain law and order, have now been withdrawn, the *Daily News* said. Voluntary organisations were helping those whose houses were set on fire on Wednesday, the paper said.

Freedom Party To Press for General Elections

BK221538 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 22 May 83

[Text] Colombo, May 22 (AFP) — The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the country's main opposition body, will continue to call for general elections this year despite the setback it suffered in last week's parliamentary by-elections and local council polls, the *Island* newspaper said today.

Deputy SLFP leader Tikira Banda Ilangaratne told the newspaper that the party would demand elections through its members in parliament and local councils. Action would also be taken outside parliament, he said, but did not elaborate.

The SLFP Central Committee is due to meet this week to analyse last week's results and map out future strategy.

General elections would normally have taken place by August this year, but President Junius Jayewardene held a referendum in December seeking public approval to extend the current parliament by another 6 years. He won with nearly 55 percent of the vote.

The referendum effectively postponed the general elections until 1989, but last week Sri Lankans went to the polls to fill 18 [word indistinct] parliamentary seats and nearly 50 local council seats.

The polls were marred by violence, with three deaths reported, including one soldier gunned down by Tamil militants in the north. The opposition Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) will ask parliament for a commission of inquiry (into) the violence, *Island* reported today quoting reliable sources.

Following the shooting of the soldier, the Army allegedly torched 30 to 40 houses and shops in Jaffna. About 1,000 people were

made homeless and have sought shelter at the Jaffna University and in temples, reports said. Meanwhile in the south, police shot dead a driver who allegedly tried to run down a police officer, it was reported.

President Vows To Eliminate Terrorist Threat
BK211427 Colombo SUN in English 14 May 83 p 1

[By Chris Dharmakiti]

[Excerpts] President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday described the terrorists of the north as a "special breed of cold-blooded murderers" and vowed he would do everything in his power to wipe them out. Addressing a series of political rallies in Eheliyagoda, Maharagama, and Kesbewa, President Jayewardene revealed he would go to the extent of imposing martial law in the country, if it was necessary, to eliminate terrorism.

"Be patient. Though some accuse me of being too weak and lenient with the terrorists who have adopted dangerous tactics to divide the country, I have my strategy to tackle them," he said.

President Jayewardene said he could not fight terrorism alone. On behalf of the government, he called upon the Sir Lanka Freedom Party and the people of Sri Lanka to assist him in the fight against subversives and terrorists.

President Jayewardene described the activities of the Liberation Tiger movement as the biggest problem facing the country. They should be contained before civil disorder upset development projects in Sri Lanka, he said.

"While certain Tamils are clamouring for a separate state through peaceful means, the Tigers have resorted to cold-blooded killing to achieve their end," he said.

The president reiterated his call for every law-abiding citizen to extend his cooperation to the government to prevent terrorist activities.

President Describes Supreme Defense Council Session
LD232347 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 May 83

[Interview granted by President Khamene'i to unidentified correspondent following the 23 May session of the Supreme Defense Council in Tehran — recorded]

[Excerpts][Question] Mr President: What issues were raised and what decisions made during tonight's session of the Supreme Defense Council?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As usual, various issues on the agenda of tonight's session were reviewed. As usual, most of the issues were about the war. Commanders and officials responsible for the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps described conditions on the fronts.

[Question] If there is anything to recount concerning the future of the war and the operations of the combatants of Islam, will you please explain?

[Answer] On the future of the war, we say what we have always said. We are determined to end the war with strength and victory. For as long as the rights of the Iranian people are being trampled, for as long as the aggressor continues to aggress, we will continue the war.

[Question] During the past few days, we have witnessed visits by two ministers and representatives of Persian Gulf countries in connection with the prevention of the Persian Gulf oil slick. What in your opinion is the result of this visit?

[Answer] The Persian Gulf oil slick is an issue that concerns us and our Persian Gulf neighbors. The Gulf countries are justified in being worried about it. The only country that does not feel worried or responsible is Iraq, who caused it. The gentlemen who came to Iran were from Kuwait and the UAE. Theyraised the issue of the oil slick and also discussed general matters relating to the Persian Gulf.

[Question] What were Iran's proposals for preventing the oil from spreading?

[Answer] During the Kuwait conferences, our representatives said that we were prepared to end the oil slick — from a technical point of view — in any way the countries of the region wished. We have only ever had one condition: While our technical personnel are at work, Iraq should not subject them to another missile attack. Iraq does this sort of thing. It has done it before, once when Iranian technical personnel were trying to repair and harness a well. They were hit by an Iraqi missile that killed a number of people and sank a ship. This incident occurred when the oil slick first formed, a few months ago. Our only condition is that the Iraqis should not attack again. We want this issue to end. It is natural for us to want this issue to end; we told those gentlemen that we would agree with whatever the Persian Gulf countries wished.

[Question] As you know, a UN delegation is inspecting the cities have have received damage through Iraqi attacks; what in your opinion will be the result of this trip for Iran on the international scene?

[Answer] The issue is interpreted in different ways in the world. As usual, the enemies of the Islamic Republic — those who use every little thing to subject Iran to propaganda attacks — said things about and concocted stances concerning Iran. We welcome this delegation. We suggested the visit, so that unbiased peoples — if they wish to be unbiased — would come and see things for themselves.

[Question] Various sources have quoted different figures for Iran's war reparation demands; would you tell us that figure is correct?

[Answer] We have not set a figure. Last year, we said $150 billion. We also said that that was an estimate. We do not, at present, insist on a certain figure. Those who want to interfere and think that the issue concerns them should come and estimate it themselves. We do not insist that we should be the ones to do so.

President Khamene'i Gives Friday Sermon
LD232015 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Millions of God-seeking and ever-vigilant hezbollahis,just as on previous Fridays, today took part in the religious and political ceremonies of the Friday prayers throughout the Islamic homeland. With their glorious participation, they once again showed the impenetrable unity of the Islamic nation and demonstrated their unconquerable unity in gratitude to the blood of the martyrs on the path of truth.

In Tehran, too, various sections of the ever-militant and Muslim people participated in the Friday prayers at Tehran University, the rendezvous of the faithful, under the guidance of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday imam of Tehran.

Opening his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, referred to the anniversary of the birth of the master of martyrs and the world's free people, Hoseyn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, as well as the Guards Corps Day, saying that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is one of the earliest and most fundamental institutions of the Islamic Republic; it grew like a plant in suitable soil. It has now displayed its existence to the heroic and hero-nurturing nation. The Corps is a people's combat unit which the people regard as their own. The revolution's culture governs the Corps. Revolutionary elements have been fostered in this large and efficient organization, which is controlled by revolutionary figures. This institution must always remain revolutionary. To defend the Revolution Guards Corps, revolutionary mentality must not give way to something else; the revolutionary pace must continue in this gigantic organization.

The Friday imam of Tehran added that order and discipline must govern all aspects of society and administrative organizations as well as the people's ordinary life. Once a unit becomes military, it requires more order and discipline; order must extend further in the Revolution Guards Corps, just like the military training

which enjoys a higher standard in the Corps. Therefore, as far as the Revolution Guards Corps is concerned, order must be seen to be more extensive.

The Revolution Guards Corps must attach more importance to quality than to quantity. People would like to see in these dear sons more complete and farsighted individuals. Since its inception, the Corps has been the target of envy by counterrevolutionary elements. In Kordestan, elements who later proved to be infidels and who openly confronted the Islamic Republic were opposed to the presence of the Revolution Guards Corps in Kordestan, for they knew its important role. The Corps is dear to us and must continue to remain dear to us in order be able to provide the required services to the Islamic society and the world of Islam.

In the midst of all these, our brother corpsmen must remember that any unethical deed committed by them, which might cause the people to hold them in contempt, will be a blow to the body of the Revolution Guards Corps. Consequently, every attempt must be made to maintain this institution and enable it to meet the people's interests. Our brother guardsmen in the committees should also adhere to the same characteristics and be fully versed in their duties in their kindercontacts with the people. Here we are not dealing with individuals; the important issue at state is the gigantic institution which must be safeguarded.

Continuing his second sermon, the friday imam of Tehran referred to the shameful agreement between Lebanon and the Zionist regime, describing it as another trap in the Zionist expansionist policy. He said:

[Begin recording] The Zionists progress step by step in their long term policies. Although they have announced in their slogans and remarks that their aim is the vast region from the Nile to the Euphrates, and they expect to have in the future a large Jewish country — many times larger than the Islamic land occupied by them now — in practice they have always progressed step by step. They have progressed step by step in Lebanon; the Zionists took one of their biggest steps in Lebanon. During the past few days, they took the final steps in their big plan for Lebanon. First, they entered Lebanon under a pretext. They occupied Lebanese cities one after another despite all resistance. They captured Beirut, which is the capital of an Islamic and Arabic country. Then they promised to return Beirut if the Palestinians were expelled from the city. This was the most bullying demand anyone could have made. It is not possible to find anything more wrong and bullying than a group of usurping Zionists — aliens gathered from every corner of the world to usurp a part of the Islamic world — coming to Beirut and saying: We will leave this Arabic capital when the Palestinians leave.

They demanded the expulsion of the Palestinians, who were the inhabitants of that region and liked by other people. Unfortunately, the necessary resistance was not mounted against this creeping policy. The Islamic and Arab worlds did not resist Israel's bullying when it was supposed to. The Palestinians were expelled from Beirut under great hardship and discomfort. The world of Islam — the believers, the intellectuals, and the sympathizers throughout the Islamic world — shed tears of blood when they observed the expulsion of the Palestinians from Beirut. They left Beirut and now the Zionists are demanding conditions for returning the land that they have usurped by force. They demand conditions for withdrawing from an Islamic and Arab country, conditions which will once again lead to further dismemberment of the Islamic and Arab world. It again means separation of another part of Lebanon from the Islamic world.

The shameful Camp David accords were repeated in Lebanon. For their withdrawal from the land that they have usurped for nearly a year while pressuring its people, the Israelis have demanded that the Palestinian and Syrian forces also leave Lebanon and the Al-Biqa' region. Even their Israeli withdrawal is not a proper withdrawal: the Israelis withdraw, allowing their agents and mercenaries, such as Sa'd Haddad and other Sa'd Haddads, to replace them. They withdraw, permitting their patrol groups to wander in south Lebanon all the time. The believers in south Lebanon and throughout Lebanon will not dare breathe because of the bullying and usurping Israelis. The Arab and Islamic world has stood aside watching this bitter experience with indifference.

From our point of view, this agreement, which is an agreement between the Government of Lebanon and the usurping Zionists, is an illegal and unlawful agreement. [shouts of "God is the greatest!"]. In this agreement, the rights of the people of Lebanon have been violated, as have the rights of the steadfast state of Syria, which has created a powerful separate front on its own against the usurping Zionists. We, as a Muslim nation, a nation that studies the issues of Palestine and the Islamic world with an eye on decisionmaking, reject this agreement. We do not accept this agreement and believe that the Islamic and Arab worlds should defend the people of Lebanon. They should defend the Palestinians — who, according to this agreement, are once again supposed to leave Al-Biqa' and Lebanon. The Islamic and Arab worlds should defend the steadfast Government of Syria against the usurping Zionists. This is the duty of the Islamic and Arab worlds. [shouts of approval]. [end recording]

Continuing his second sermon, referring to the importance of the inauguration of an Islamic university, the Friday imam of Tehran said that last year, this very interesting and popular proposal was put forward by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. This university will be run by people who possess valuable scientific knowledge, who wish to place this knowledge at the disposal of the people. This university will cover all fields of science; the system of the Islamic university is a cross between a seminary and a regular university. Centers have been prepared for this university in a number of cities. University students will soon start studying there.

Concluding his sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i addressed our Muslim Arab brothers and sisters with a sermon in Arabic.

JANA Reports Khamene'i Letter to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD232137 Tripoli JANA in English 1811 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, Shaban 11, May 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received the envoy of the Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i who

handed him a letter from President Khamene'i to the revolution's leader. The text of the letter reads as follows:

The signing of the imposed agreement between the Lebanese Government and the Zionist enemy is another step towards recognition of the occupied entity in Palestine and the holy city of Jerusalem and entrenches the cancerous growth in the region. The signing of this agreement will undermine the security of Syria by seriously threatening it. It will also weaken the anti-Zionist front and drag yet another Muslim Arab country towards the Camp David accords.

We believe that no agreement or understanding can replace the principle of the unconditional withdrawal of Zionist forces. Therefore, the use of the excuse of the mutual withdrawal with Syrian forces is only an excuse for this barbaric onslaught and abuses the high principles and values of international relations. Confrontation of the savage U.S.-Zionist onslaught on the region can only be realised through revolutionary sincerity and close solidarity with the Palestinian cause together with utmost efforts to liberate Palestine and Jerusalem. This sincerity and solidarity together with love must remain alive in the souls of our people.

In this respect, conspirers, usurpers and hypocrites must not be allowed to put out the candle of hope, thus plunging the future of an entire nation in darkness.

The Islamic Iranin Republic supports the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's measures regarding the holding of an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss taking the appropriate measures to confront this massive conspiracy. It also believes in quick efforts being exerted to evaluate practical means to support Syria in its fundamental confrontation against the Zionist enemy.

We hope that the continuation of the anti-Zionist front's resistance and steadfastness will help all Islamic nations to realise the hope of peoples for the liberation of holy Jerusalem and total defeat of the Zionist entity. We also hope that the struggle of down-trodden Islamic peoples in the region (?is endowed) with God's blessing.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Propaganda War

LD240017 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Managers, officials, and employees of the national dialects and external services of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from all over the country met with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Tehran today. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in this meeting, while placing emphasis on the necessity of the correct broadcast for informing the public opinion of the society, said: The more the enemies of the Islamic Revolution propagandize against the revolution, the more the unpopular nature of those will be revealed by our right and anti-arrogant stance.

While referring to the vast and expansion of anti-Islamic propaganda of the arrogance media, he added: Although the Islamic revolution of Iran has been wronged, but despite all these propa gandas it will continue moving in its Islamic and popular path.[sentence as heard]

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in connection with the Iraqi-imposed war upon the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: Our conditions for the termination of the war are still the same and we will continue until the victory of the army of Islam and fulfillment of Iran's conditions. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while referring to the increasing number of Iraqi soldiers fleeing the warfronts and huge financial and military aids of the region's reactionary rulers as well as Mitterrand's government's aids for the regime of Iraq, added: Political and economic situation in France and in the countries supporting Saddam has made them reduce the amount of their aid for the regime ruling over Iraq.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,324

LD231724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 83

[Communique No 1,324 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of heavy weapons' fire continued on the southern fronts. On most of the fronts in that sector, the combatants of Islam brought enemy positions under artillery and mortar fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces. Enemy losses included an ammunition dump and about 13 men killed or injured.

On one of the southern fronts, an enemy patrol group was brought under fire, most of whom were killed.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operation theater, our combative forces brought enemy assembly points on the other side of the Arvand Rud under fire, destroying a number of (?fuel) tanks and preventing enemy movement.

On the Ilam, Qasr-e Shirin, and Bakhtaran border fronts during the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued; a number of Iraqi bunkers and an enemy mortar launcher were destroyed and a number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

During exchanges of fire in the Marivan sector, our forces' heavy artillery fire destroyed enemy positions and fortifications near (Hanigarmaleh) and a number of enemy infantry bunkers; a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or injured.

During the past 24 hours, enemy aerial activities in a number of southern and western border regions were repelled thanks to our antiaircraft fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique on Khorramshahr Liberation Anniversary
LD231407 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 83

[Communique of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Central Headquarters of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In His exalted name. On 24 May is the anniversary of the grand victory and immortal epic of the Islamic combatants epic — the recapture of oppressed Khorramshahr. It is a glorious leaf in the history of this imposed war whose memory will always remain alive. The liberation of Khorramshahr — this city of epic and blood, resistance, and selflessness — was a display of love and faith by those fighting along God's path and by the heroic combatants who, relying on God's might and through their enthusiasm and indescribable eagerness to raise higher the banner of "There is no god but God," while chanting Ya 'Ali Abu Talib, attacked the heart of the enemies of Islam and humanity and once again revealed to the world the might of dear Islam and the decline and desperation of the world of infidels.

By creating unparalleled scenes of sincerity, selflessness, and courage, which demonstrate the glory of pursuance of justice by a risen nation, the mighty Islamic forces became deserving of the special assistance of God Almighty. Thus, by liberating parts of the Islamic homeland and the land of the hidden imam — may peace be upon him — they succeeded in pleasing the imam of the people and the people of the party of God, and in turning the vain hopes of global arrogance and its criminal associates to despair, anger, and anxiety.

The army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, commemorating the memories of the valued martyrs of the revolution and particularly the martyrs of the victorious Jerusalem Operation [Bayt al-Moqqadas], on the anniversary of the recapture of Khorramshahr again renew their holy allegiance with the imam and the people and declare that, relying on the undiminishing might of God and the cohesive presence on the scene by the Muslim and heroic nation, they will open the path toward conquering noble Quds by chanting: War, war until victory.

They declare they will not rest until total victory is achieved and the legitimate rights of the Muslim nation of Iran are restored. We look for the ultimate victory of Islam over global blasphemy.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Revolution Guards Corps

UN Delegation Inspects Abadan, Khorramshahr
GF231645 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Ahvaz, May 23, IRNA — The United Nations delegation currently here to inspect the crimes committed by Saddam visited this morning an Abadan hospital which was ruined by the Iraqi aggressor forces shellings. While conducting a technical inspection of the remnants of the Iraqi shells in the hospital, the delegation spoke to the wounded civilians who were hospitalised there.

The United Nations delegation also examined a cluster bomb dropped by the Iraqis on the hospital. Speaking to the delegation the hospital manager said that the Iraqi regime continued to shell the hospital although the Red Cross sign was placed atop the hospital. He added that in the course of the past 30 months, 15 of hospital personnel had been martyred together with some of the hospitalised people there as a result of the Iraqi shelling.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi aggressors shelled Abadan with their long-range artillery today, the sounds of which could be heard not far away.

The United Nations delegation then arrived in Khorramshahr to observe the devastation caused by Saddamite forces who had destroyed the town and reduced it to rubble and ashes.

The delegation spoke to the towns ulema and Governor Abbasi who provided the delegation with a full account of the inhuman crimes perpetrated by Saddam.

Abbasi said Khorramshahr was once one of Iran's most beautiful towns which has now been reduced to ruins by the Iraqi invaders.

He said the Iraqi forces using two reinforced divisions attacked Khorramshahr in the beginning of the war, thus martyring 200 women, children and elderly in the very first day.

He said he was a student then and that he lost one of his legs after mortar shell hit him.

He added that the Iraqi forces committed many unspeakable atrocities in Khorramshahr (population 200,000), including raping a girl, and burying alive families who were not willing to succumb to them in 15 cases, and then the Iraqi forces buried them in their gardens. The 40-day resistance of a small force stationed in Khorramshahr then put a lot of pressure on the Iraqis to the degree that they pounded the various targets within the city with hundreds of mortars.

In addition to that, added Abbasi, the Iraqi savage forces looted peoples possessions and all the things in the Khorramshahr customs and shipping and ports organisation. He added that Iraqis captured civilians and martyred innocent women and children, while setting ablaze mosques and hospitals which were the peoples only places of refuge.

Elaborating on the scope of the destruction brought by Saddamite barbaric forces in Khorramshahr Abbassi provided the delegation with statistics and figures, and called on the delegation to convey the message and oppressed voice of the Khorramshahr people to the world.

The delegation then inspected various sections of Khorramshahr town, and viewed the vast destructions.

The delegation was received everywhere by the people and the Islamic combatants of Iran who cried: Down with the U.S., Down with the Soviet Union, Down with Israel and Convey our oppressed message to the world.

Environment Organization Discusses Oil Spill
GF231658 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — The headquarters for coordination of efforts to control contamination of the Persian Gulf waters met here this morning chaired by the head of the organisation for protection of the environment, Mirza Taheri.

During the session which was attended by officials from related organisations and ministries, technical methods to be employed in controlling the oil slick and also responsibilities of each of the task groups were discussed. Other issues raised included expenses of the operation and also coordination of the efforts of the headquarters with other members of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Life (Kuwait convention).

The headquarters was formed following contamination of Persian Gulf waters caused as a result of Iraqi missile attacks on Iran's offshore oil wells early last March.

In a bid to cap the damaged oil-wells, member countries of the Kuwait convention have held several meetings. However, they have failed to produce any result because of problems created by the Iraqi delegation in the meetings. The oil spill in addition to endangering marine life, has posed threats to states on southern coasts of the Persian Gulf. Ever since the incident, the Islamic Republic authorities have announced their willingness for cooperation in taking measures to check the leaking oil spill.

Bulgarian Economic Delegation Departs 20 May
LD201337 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 20 May 83

[Text] Tehran, may 20, IRNA — The Bulgarian economic, delegation headed by Agriculture Minister Aleksandur Petkov, ended a three-day visit to the Islamic Republic Friday morning after signing an agreement on agricultural cooperation.

Prior to his departure, Petkov told IRNA correspondent that there (?were many) vast areas which the two countries could base their cooperation in agriculture and food industries. He said the agriculture agreement signed Thursday was in the direction of further expansion of these cooperations.

Petkov added that currently the volume of Iranian exports to his country were higher than Bulgaria's exports to Iran and in meetings with Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi, the grounds for doubling trade between the two countries was established.

Mohammad Salamati, Iran's minister of agriculture and rural development, said the agreement signed with his Bulgarian counterpart was in the fields of joint cooperation in agricultural research, seed breeding, fisheries, forestry, pastures, livestock breeding, roads and transportation, foodstuffs, hennery, mobile freezers, tools and other fields.

Salamati said the Bulgarian delegation had also requested the Islamic Republic to provide that country with some 30 million dollars worth of dried fruits, pistachio, shoes, tricots, machinery, flower extract, buses, spare parts, and caviar, which was accepted by Iran.

He added that during the period of March 1982 and March 1983, trade between the two countries stood at 450 million dollars and the Bulgarians were willing to increase their imports of Iranian non-oil products.

He said an Iranian delegation would go to Bulgaria in the near future in order to speed up the process of transporting goods between the two countries.

The Bulgarian delegation arrived here Tuesday and held several meetings with Iranian officials within the framework of previous economic agreements with the Islamic Republic.